



## Mary Riley Styles Public Library

### Senior Book Discussion Series

### 2014-2015

Tuesday, September 16: *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor

The first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor has become an instant American icon. Now, with a candor and intimacy never undertaken by a sitting Justice, she recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench, a journey that offers an inspiring testament to her own extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself.

Tuesday, October 28: *The Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline

Molly Ayer is close to “aging out” out of the foster care system, when she faces juvie—or a community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home. As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly learns that as an orphaned Irish immigrant, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest. Rich in detail and epic in scope, this is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of unexpected friendship, and of the secrets we carry that keep us from finding out who we are.

Tuesday, December 9: *The End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe

During her treatment for cancer, Mary Anne Schwalbe and her son Will spent many hours sitting in waiting rooms together. To pass the time, they would talk about the books they were reading. Once, by chance, they read the same book at the same time—and an informal book club of two was born. Through their wide-ranging reading, Will and Mary Anne—and we, their fellow readers—are reminded how books can be comforting, astonishing, and illuminating, changing the way that we feel about and interact with the world around us.

Tuesday, January 20: *Something I've Been Meaning to Tell You* by Alice Munro

Winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2013, Munro's skill was already evident in this short story collection originally published in the 1970s. In the 13 stories in her remarkable second collection, sisters, mothers and daughters, aunts, grandmothers, and friends shimmer with hope and love, anger and reconciliation, as they contend with their histories and their present, and what they can see of the future.

Tuesday, March 10: *The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II* by Denise Kiernan

The incredible story of the young women of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, who unwittingly played a crucial role in one of the most significant moments in US history. At the height of World War II, Oak Ridge was home to 75,000 residents, but to most of the world, the town did not exist. Thousands of civilians—many of them young women from small towns across the South—were recruited to this secret city, enticed by solid wages and the promise of war-ending work. Kept in the dark, few would ever guess the true nature of the tasks they performed each day in the hulking factories in the middle of the Appalachian Mountains.

Tuesday, April 21: *The Merlot Murders* by Ellen Crosby

Lucie Montgomery, an American ex-pat who's been holed up in France for two years, returns to her family's vineyard in the Virginia countryside after the death of her father in a supposed hunting accident. On the heels of Papa Montgomery's funeral, Lucie's godfather, Fitz, is found dead, and Lucie's suspicions are stoked. Details about wine making and interesting historical tidbits about Thomas Jefferson's (unsuccessful) efforts to establish a wine industry in early Virginia make this a terrific kickoff to a highly satisfying series.

Tuesday, June 2: *Out of the Woods: A Memoir of Wayfinding* by Lynn Darling

The carefully constructed home Darling had created in her Manhattan apartment began to fall apart when her husband died. When their only child left for college, and the nest emptied completely, Darling knew she had to reinvent or rediscover herself lest she succumb to the cumulative grief of both events. She abandons New York and purchases a remote backwoods cabin in Vermont, and discovers that what she doesn't know about rural life is nearly eclipsed by what she doesn't know about herself.